Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The magnetoresistive device according to claim 1 wherein~~ A magnetoresistive device, comprising:

a magnetoresistive element having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions that connect the two surfaces to each other;

two bias field applying layers that are located adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and

two electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers; wherein

the two bias field applying layers are located off one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element;

at least one of the electrode layers overlaps the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a total length of regions of the two electrode layers that are laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.3 μm; and

a space between the two electrode layers is greater than zero and equal to or smaller than approximately 0.6 μm.

4-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 4 wherein~~ A method of manufacturing a magnetoresistive device, comprising:

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a magnetoresistive element having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions that connect the two surfaces to each other;

two bias field applying layers that are located adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and

two electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers, the method including the steps of:

forming the magnetoresistive element;

forming the bias field applying layers; and

forming the electrode layers, wherein

the two bias field applying layers are located off one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element;

at least one of the electrode layers overlaps the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a total length of regions of the two electrode layers that are laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.3 μm; and

a space between the two electrode layers is greater than zero and equal to or smaller than approximately 0.6 μm.

7-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The thin-film magnetic head according to claim 7 wherein~~ A thin-film magnetic head, comprising:

a magnetoresistive element having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions that connect the two surfaces to each other;

two bias field applying layers that are located adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and

two electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers; wherein

the two bias field applying layers are located off one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element;

at least one of the electrode layers overlaps the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a total length of regions of the two electrode layers that are laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.3 μm; and

a space between the two electrode layers is greater than zero and equal to or smaller than approximately 0.6 μm.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 10 wherein~~ A method of manufacturing a thin-film magnetic head, comprising:

a magnetoresistive element having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions that connect the two surfaces to each other;

two bias field applying layers that are located adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and

two electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element, each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers, the method including the steps of:

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forming the magnetoresistive element;

forming the bias field applying layers; and

forming the electrode layers, wherein

the two bias field applying layers are located off one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element;

at least one of the electrode layers overlaps the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a total length of regions of the two electrode layers that are laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.3 μm; and

a space between the two electrode layers is greater than zero and equal to or smaller than approximately 0.6 μm.

13. (New) The magnetoresistive device according to claim 3, wherein both of the two electrode layers overlap the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a length of the region of each of the two electrode layers that is laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.15 μm.

14. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein both of the two electrode layers overlap the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a length of the region of each of the two electrode layers that is laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.15 μm.

15. (New) The thin-film magnetic head according to claim 9, wherein both of the two electrode layers overlap the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a length of the region of each of the two electrode layers that is laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.15 μm.

16. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein both of the two electrode layers overlap the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element, and a length of the

region of each of the two electrode layers that is laid over the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element is greater than zero and smaller than 0.15 μm.